The Numismatic Cabinet of James Allaire Millholland

(1842-1911)

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Presented By

Stack's Bowers GALLERIES

The Official Auction of the Whitman Coin & Collectibles Spring Expo

The Numismatic Cabinet of James Allaire Millholland (1842-1911)

James Allaire Millholland, born in 1842, was an active participant in the industrial explosion of the 19th century in western Maryland. His father was an early American railway master mechanic, responsible for the invention of important mechanisms on the early railroad. Millholland followed a similar path to that of his father, becoming a master mechanic and later a railroad executive, playing a significant role in the use of the rails to aid in the mining of iron, clay, and gold.

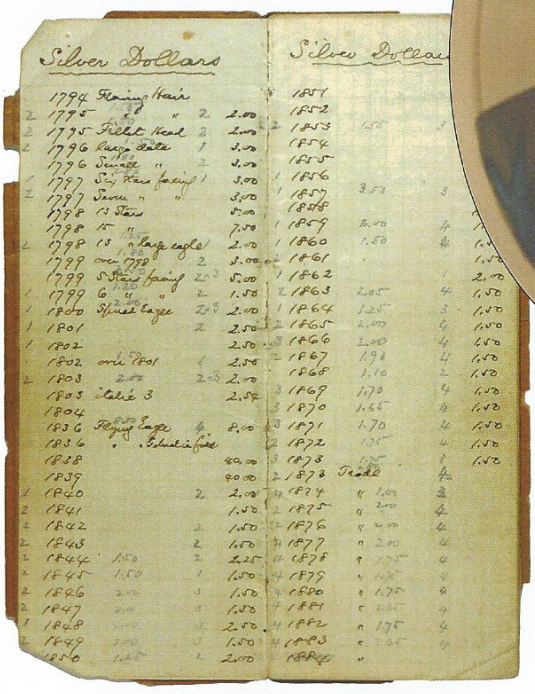
In his spare time, he was a very early and earnest member of the coin collecting community. It is unknown when his numismatic ventures began. However, it is apparent that his collecting ended in approximately 1894, about 17 years before his death, given that the coins in the collection trail off in that year. Now, after having been tucked away for well over a century, Stack's Bowers Galleries is honored to bring Millholland's collection to the numismatic market for the first time.

The James A. Millholland Collection is an astounding numismatic assemblage of approximately 550 coins of the utmost quality, beauty, and originality. It is unheard of to come across a private collection that has remained untouched and intact for over a century. This holding takes the slang numismatic term "fresh" to an entirely different level. A truly wonderful aspect of the collection is the cabinet in which it was stored. All of us here at Stack's Bowers Galleries were stunned when we opened the custom cabinet and began to carefully examine each tray of coins, finding row upon row of gorgeously toned gems.

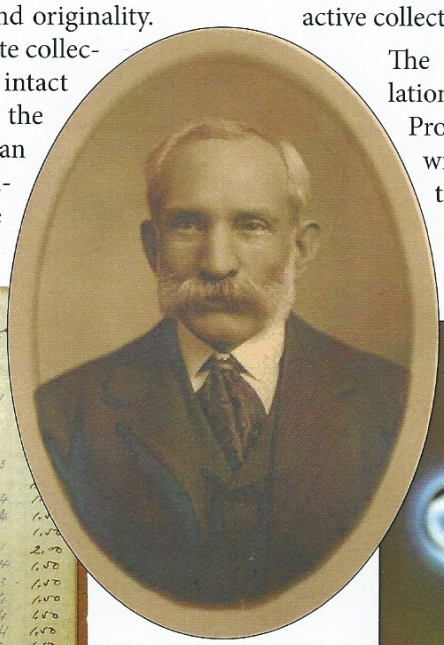
Millholland kept a meticulous manual record of his holdings in a pocket-sized personal ledger. Homemade listings were essential and commonplace in that era, as reference works and listings were not as prevalent as they are today. At the end of this ledger, Millholland listed eight dealers around the country with whom he apparently conducted business. It reads like a who's who of 19th century numismatics: Scott and Co., Haseltine, A.M. Smith, Mason & Co., S.H. & H. Chapman, and others.

The collection is a product of its time, with a focus on dates and major varieties, with mintmarks being of no consequence. The collecting of coins by mintmark only started to take off in the 1890s, inspired by Augustus Heaton's 1893 reference affectionately known as *Mint Marks*. This was around the time Millholland's active collecting came to an end.

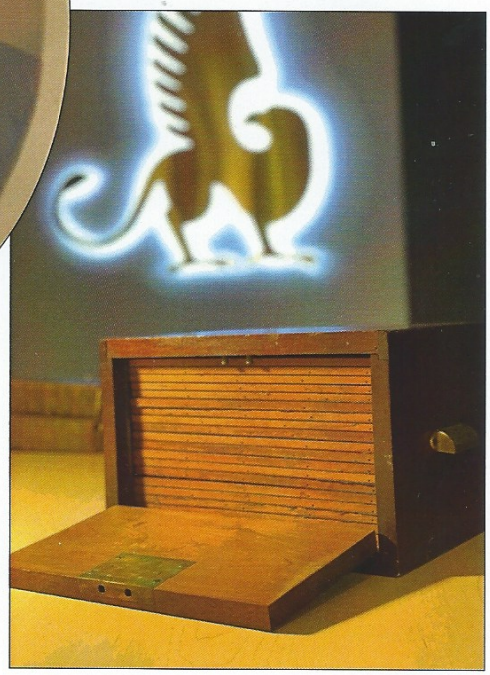
The collection begins with the circulation strike issues of the 1790s, with Proofs coming to the fore starting with coins of the 1860s. About one-third of the collection is composed of Proofs, which seemed to be his preference and were very possi-



A page from Millholland's detailed ledger.

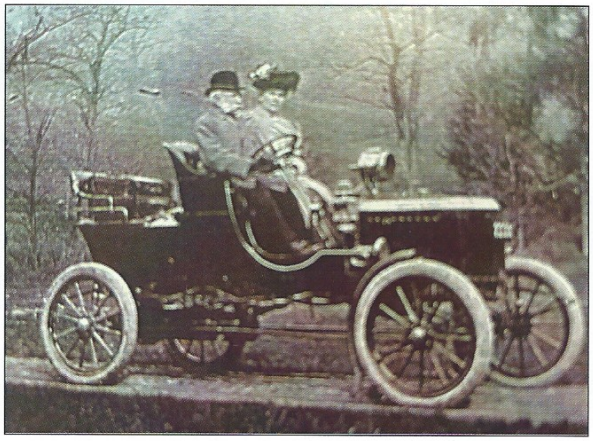


James A. Millholland (1842-1911)



The wooden cabinet Millholland built to house his collection and where the coins were kept untouched until they came to our New York City flagship gallery in 2022.

bly purchased directly from the Mint! Many of the high-grade coins and especially the Proofs are toned in a lovely manner, having spent over a century acquiring their coloration in his wooden cabinet.



James A. Millholland and his wife in their 1905 Stanley Model G Light two passenger runabout – one of 11 built!

It was a pleasure to examine and work with each and every piece, although we must admit the Stack's Bowers Galleries team has fallen the hardest for the 1865 Proof Liberty Seated dollar, which is graded Proof-66+ CAC, putting this lovely specimen in the upper echelon of its date and type with few finer pieces extant. Its vivid obverse rainbows are beautiful enhanced by elegant and complementary peripheral reverse toning. Our second favorite in this collection is the very next coin, a 1866 Proof Liberty Seated dollar graded Proof-66 Cameo CAC. This stunner presents a gorgeous mixture of cameo contrast, partial rainbow tones and, on the obverse, golden toning that mimics a sun emerging.

Additional highlights of this collection include lengthy date runs of vibrantly toned half dimes, dimes, quarters, half dollars, and silver dollars that feature every color of the rainbow. Though the coins in the pages to follow are heavy on registry quality Gem Proofs, the collection includes denominations stretching from half cents through silver dollars, and include many coins of entry level value, popular key dates, and plenty of circulation strike issues to go along with the Proofs. There is certainly something for every type of collector.

Also included are some famous issues like the Gobrecht dollar and an 1856 Flying Eagle cent. Another highlight is an 1818/5 Capped Bust quarter graded MS-65+ and approved by CAC. We note that CAC stickers are common throughout the collection, as the CAC approval rate was in excess of 40%, and for good reason. The Proof coinage, taken on its own, had a CAC approval rate in excess of 50%!

Stack's Bowers Galleries is very proud to present the Millholland Collection, bringing us back in time for a rare glimpse at old-school collecting, when coins were acquired one per date and beautifully laid out in custom-built wood trays and cabinets. This extraordinary level of numismatic nostalgia is quite special in this day and age. We expect there to be great excitement when the approximately 550 coins in the collection cross the auction block in the Stack's Bowers Galleries March 2023 Official Auction of the Whitman Coin & Collectibles Spring Expo, providing collectors the opportunity to acquire a piece of this numismatic time capsule.

Trays from Millholland's wooden cabinet.

Highlights from the Numismatic Cabinet of
James Allaire Millholland

1856 Flying Eagle Cent.
Proof-63 (PCGS). CAC

1892 Indian Cent.
Proof-66+ RB (PCGS).

1872 Two-Cent Piece.
Proof-66 BN (PCGS). CAC

1863 Three-Cent Silver Piece. Proof-66 Cameo (PCGS). CAC

1868 Three-Cent Nickel Piece.
MS-67 (PCGS). CAC

1853 Half Dime No Arrows.
MS-66+ (PCGS). CAC

1837 Liberty Seated Dime.
No Stars, Large Date.
MS-65 (PCGS).

1839 Liberty Seated Dime.
No Drapery.
MS-66+ (PCGS). CAC

1850 Liberty Seated Dime.
MS-65 (PCGS). CAC

1852 Liberty Seated Dime.
MS-67 (PCGS). CAC

1866 Liberty Seated Dime.
MS-67 (PCGS).

1867 Liberty Seated Dime.
Proof-66+ (PCGS). CAC

1878-CC Liberty Seated Dime. MS-65 (PCGS).

1879 Liberty Seated Dime.
MS-67 (PCGS). CAC

1885 Liberty Seated Dime.
Proof-67+ (PCGS). CAC

1890 Liberty Seated Dime.
Proof-67 (PCGS). CAC

1891 Liberty Seated Dime.
Proof-67 (PCGS). CAC

1893 Barber Dime.
Proof-67+ (PCGS).

1877 Twenty-Cent Piece.
Proof-66 (PCGS).

1878 Twenty-Cent Piece.
Proof-65+ (PCGS). CAC

1815 Capped Bust Quarter.
"L" Counterstamp. B-1. Rarity-1.
MS-63 (PCGS).

1818/5 Capped Bust Quarter.
B-1. Rarity 2
MS-65+ (PCGS). CAC

1859 Liberty Seated Quarter.
Proof-65 (PCGS). CAC

1863 Liberty Seated Quarter.
MS-66 (PCGS). CAC

Highlights from the Numismatic Cabinet of
James Allaire Millholland

1864 Liberty Seated Quarter.
MS-66+ (PCGS). CAC

1865 Liberty Seated Quarter.
Proof-66+ Cameo (PCGS).

1866 Liberty Seated Quarter. Motto.
Proof-65 (PCGS).

1867 Liberty Seated Quarter.
Proof-64 Cameo (PCGS). CAC

1873 Liberty Seated Quarter. No
Arrows. Proof-66+ (PCGS). CAC

1877 Liberty Seated Quarter.
Proof-66 (PCGS). CAC

1879 Liberty Seated Quarter.
Proof-66 (PCGS).

1880 Liberty Seated Quarter.
Proof-67 (PCGS).

1881 Liberty Seated Quarter.
Proof-66 (PCGS). CAC

1882 Liberty Seated Quarter.
Proof-66 Cameo (PCGS). CAC

1885 Liberty Seated Quarter.
Proof-66 (PCGS). CAC

1886 Liberty Seated Quarter.
Proof-67 (PCGS). CAC

1888 Liberty Seated Quarter.
Proof-65+ (PCGS). CAC

1835 Capped Bust Half Dollar.
O-101. Rarity 3.
MS-65 (PCGS). CAC

1881 Liberty Seated Half Dollar.
Proof-66 (PCGS). CAC

1883 Liberty Seated Half Dollar.
Proof-65 (PCGS). CAC

1885 Liberty Seated Half Dollar.
Proof-67 (PCGS). CAC

1886 Liberty Seated Half Dollar.
Proof-67 (PCGS). CAC

Highlights from the Numismatic Cabinet of
James Allaire Millholland

1889 Liberty Seated Half Dollar.
Proof-66+ (PCGS).

1890 Liberty Seated Half Dollar.
Proof-67 (PCGS).

1803 Draped Bust Silver Dollar.
BB-255, B-6. Rarity 2. Large 3.
MS-61 (PCGS).

1848 Liberty Seated Silver Dollar.
MS-62 (PCGS).

1865 Liberty Seated Silver Dollar.
Proof-66+ (PCGS).

1866 Liberty Seated Silver Dollar. Motto.
Proof-66 Cameo (PCGS).

1867 Liberty Seated Silver Dollar.
Proof-65+ Cameo (PCGS).

1869 Liberty Seated Silver Dollar.
Proof-66 Cameo (PCGS).

1870 Liberty Seated Silver Dollar.
Proof-65 (PCGS).

1872 Liberty Seated Silver Dollar.
Proof-64+ Cameo (PCGS).

1876 Trade Dollar.
Proof-64 Cameo (PCGS).

1878 Trade Dollar.
Proof-65 (PCGS).

Highlights from the Numismatic Cabinet of
James Allaire Millholland

1879 Trade Dollar.
Proof-64+ (PCGS). CAC

1880 Trade Dollar.
Proof-66 (PCGS). CAC

1881 Trade Dollar.
Proof-66 (PCGS). CAC

1883 Trade Dollar.
Proof-64+ (PCGS).

1878 Morgan Silver Dollar. 7TF Reverse of 1878.
Proof-64+ (PCGS). CAC

1879 Morgan Silver Dollar.
Proof-65+ (PCGS). CAC

1880 Morgan Silver Dollar.
Proof-66 (PCGS). CAC

1883 Morgan Silver Dollar.
Proof-65+ (PCGS). CAC

1884 Morgan Silver Dollar.
Proof-65 (PCGS). CAC

1888 Morgan Silver Dollar.
Proof-66 (PCGS).

1891 Morgan Silver Dollar.
Proof-67 (PCGS).

1893 Morgan Silver Dollar.
Proof-66 (PCGS). CAC

PLAN TO PARTICIPATE!

This world class collection will be presented in our
March 2023 Official Auction of the
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For more information contact
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